

LEVY COUNTY

Community Health Improvement Plan

Prepared by the Florida Department of Health in Levy County

2013 Update

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Executive Summary

“Health is a state of complete, physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” - World Health Organization

In Levy County, there are areas of progress and continuing opportunity when it comes to improving the health of its residents. Access to timely, quality healthcare is just one piece of the puzzle that affects community health. The environment, interactions in schools, the workplace, and surrounding neighborhoods also determine the health of individuals and community as a whole. This is why it is important to understand the relationship between where we work, live and play and the impact these factors have on our health, and not only the interaction at the doctor’s office.

This is why more than 25 people and organizations from the county participated in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) health needs assessment to identify the unmet and emerging needs in the county. At the conclusion of the MAPP process the following four key priority strategic health issues were identified:

- Constant and uniform access to healthcare services within the county.
- Mobilize partners to impact chronic disease rates.
- Make community health a priority.
- Leverage Levy County’s environmental strengths and natural resources to improve health of community.

The aforementioned priorities are the foundation of Levy County’s 2012 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These priorities were then divided into three strategic areas: access to care, chronic disease and health promotion. Three committees were formed to work on addressing these areas. The separate committees identified the goals, objectives and strategies for each strategic area, which are addressed in the CHIP.

MAPP PROCESS

The 2012 Community Health Needs Assessment utilized the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These activities were funded by the Florida Department of Health through grant funds that originated from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in their efforts to promote and enhance the needs assessment and priority setting and planning capacity of the local public health systems.

The following four assessments are typical of the MAPP process and were used in Levy County:

- Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA)
- Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA)
- Community Themes and Strengths Assessments (CTSA)
- Forces of Change Assessment (FCA)

The aforementioned assessments are the main elements of the MAPP process, which brought together a diverse group of community partners to form the MAPP partnership. The Florida Department of Health in Levy County partnered with WellFlorida Council, Inc. to lead the MAPP process.

Figure 1: MAPP: Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Framework



Local Public Health System Assessment

The MAPP process began with the Local Public Health Assessment (LPHSA), which is intended to answer the following questions:

- What are the activities and capacities of our public health system?
- How well are we providing the Essential Public Health Services in our jurisdiction?

It essentially helps to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement in the local public health system.

A cross-sectional group representing the local public health system was convened and asked to score the system in each of the ten Essential Public Health Service Areas (EPHS). Then each ESPH was given a composite value determined by the score given to those activities that contribute to the Essential Service. These scores range from a minimum value of 0% (no activity is performed pursuant to the standards) to a maximum of 100% (all activities associated with the standards are performed at optimal levels). Essential Public Health Services scoring 50 or below, indicate an opportunity for improvement.

Out of the ten Essential Public Health Services, the LPHSA identified three areas in the direct control of the local public health system for Levy County to improve upon.

- To better mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems (EPHS4)
- To enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety (EPHS 6); and
- To evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services (EPHS 9)

Essential Public Health Services 8 and 10 were also identified as areas to improve upon; however, they are typically out of the direct control of the public and are more so dictated by the geographical dynamics or macroeconomic trends and circumstances.

Table 1: Summary of performance scores for local public health system by Essential Public Health Service (EPHS), Levy County, 2011.

EPHS		Score
1	Monitor Health Status To Identify Community Health Problems	57
2	Diagnose And Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards	76
3	Inform, Educate, And Empower People about Health Issues	64
4	Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems	30
5	Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts	56
6	Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety	50
7	Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable	53
8	Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce	42
9	Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services	25
10	Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems	46
Overall Performance Score		50

Forces of Change Assessment

The Forces of Change Assessment helps to identify the trends and factors that are or will be influencing the health and quality of life of the residents in the community and the work of the local public health system. These forces can be related to social, economic, environmental or political factors in the region, state or U.S. that have an impact on the local community. The information collected during the FCA was used to identify four priority strategic health issues, which will be identified in the following section.

The Levy County Healthcare Advisory Board (HCAB), appointed by the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, completed the assessment in September 2011. The HCAB identified the following forces that could affect Levy County: health reform, a new hospital in Chiefland, and limited public transportation system.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

A focus group was used in Levy County for the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA). The purpose of a focus group is to listen and gather information from community members. It is a way to better understand how people feel or think about an issue, product or service. As part of the 2011 MAPP process individuals were recruited to participate in four focus groups in multiple locations in Levy County.

There was consensus from all of the groups that having access to good healthcare services and having an active lifestyle where people were physically and mentally fit were elements of a “healthy community.” Living in a healthy community with clean air, water and plenty of outdoor recreational activities were also cited as important elements for a “healthy community” by most focus groups. There was consensus from all of the groups that specialty care, hospital care and dental care were missing or limited in their community. All of the groups mentioned lack of health services and lack of health insurance as reasons there are health issues in the community.

Community Health Status Assessment

The Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) is a report that summarizes key findings from a health needs assessment, which is the process of systematically gathering and analyzing data relevant to the health and well-being of a community. The data was compiled and tabulated from multiple sources including: the U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Florida Department of Health’s Office of Vital Statistics, and Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration. Such data can help to identify unmet needs and emerging needs in the community.

The key components of the report include:

- Demographics and socioeconomics
- Mortality and morbidity
- Behavioral risk factors
- Healthcare access and utilization
- County health rankings
- Life expectancy

Priority Strategic Health Issues

Once the four key MAPP assessments were completed, the MAPP partnership selected four key priorities.

- Constant and uniform access to healthcare services within the county.
 - Continuum of care including specialized services
 - Screenings/preventative care
 - Focus on underserved areas like those in southern Levy County
 - Optimal use of existing services and resources
- Mobilize partners to impact chronic disease rates.
 - Improve healthy habits of young people to improve lifelong health
 - Use existing infrastructure such as school facilities and natural resources
- Make community health a priority.
 - Make community aware of costs/benefits of good health
 - Elevate importance of community health among local official and policymakers.
- Leverage Levy County's environmental strengths and natural resources to improve health of community.
 - Promote resources
 - Link people to available resources
 - Emphasize "positive" aspects of Levy County

These priorities were further broken down into three strategic issues.

Strategic Issues

- Access to Care
- Chronic Disease
- Health promotion



Community Health Improvement Plan

Funding was provided to the Florida Department of Health in Levy County to complete a Community Health Improvement Plan in 2012. The priorities were divided and committees comprised of community partners were identified to work on the three previously identified strategic issues. Each committee reviewed and selected goals, objectives and strategies to work on during the next five years.

Goals and Objectives

Access to Care

Link people to appropriate healthcare services to improve individual health

- Goal AC 1: Focus on providing a continuum of care that includes specialized services.
 - Strategy AC 1.1: Assess and provide information about specialty care services in or near Levy County.
 - Accountable person and organization: Barbara Locke, administrator, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective AC 1.1.1: By December 2014, improve referral relationship with We Care director to provide 5 percent more specialty care services for free to Levy County residents.
- Goal AC 2: Increase screenings and preventative care by focusing on underserved areas like southern Levy County.
 - Strategy AC 2.1: Increase awareness and knowledge of primary healthcare services in Levy County.
 - Accountable person and organization: Barbara Locke, administrator, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective AC 2.1.1: By December 31, 2012, establish a dental clinic in Bronson, Florida that serves the medically underserved in Levy County.
 - Objective AC 2.1.2: By December 31, 2013, hold a meeting with the Levy County Healthcare Advisory Board, the Board of the County Commissioners and other community partners to identify ways to improve access to care in Levy County.
 - Objective AC 2.1.3: By March 31, 2014, attend a minimum of three community events to inform and educate the public about healthcare availability, resources and preventive care and screenings in Levy County.
 - Objective AC 2.1.4: By March 31, 2014, distribute 1,000 dental clinic brochures and/or informational flyers to the community to inform residents about dental services.
 - Objective AC 2.1.5: By June 30, 2014, create and distribute 1,000 Levy County healthcare resource guides to inform residents about primary and specialty care programs, providers and healthcare assistance.
- Goal AC 3: Improve access to primary care services in Levy County
 - Strategy AC 3.1: Increase the healthcare workforce and reduce health disparities.
 - Accountable person and organization: Fred Eichler, Coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective AC 3.1.1: By March 31, 2014, increase the Medical Reserve Corps resources and volunteers by 2 percent.
 - Objective AC 3.1.2: By March 31, 2014, recruit two new physicians for the Medical Reserve Corps to improve access to care.

- Objective AC 3.1.3: By March 31, 2014, expand the number of clinics the Medical Reserve Corps provides from one to two per month to improve access to care for the medically underserved.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Mobilize partners to impact chronic disease

- Goal CD 1: Improve healthy habits of people to improve lifelong health
 - Strategy CD 1.1: Strengthen the relationship with the Levy County School Board to impact the health habits of young people.
 - Accountable person and organization: Kristina Zachry, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Quit Doc Research and Education Foundation
 - Accountable person and organization: Barbara Locke, administrator, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective CD 1.1.1: By June 30, 2013, establish one policy to restrict the sale of candy flavored tobacco products not covered by the Food and Drug Administration.
 - Objective CD 1.1.2: By March 31, 2014, collaborate with community partners to increase the number of schools by one that incorporates Nutrition Day into its educational curriculum.
 - Objective CD 1.1.3: By March 31, 2014, visit three or more public schools to educate students about oral hygiene.
 - Objective CD 1.1.4: By March 31, 2014, collaborate with the School Health Advisory Committee to create a health and fitness club at one high school.
 - Objective CD 1.1.5: By June 30, 2014, establish one policy to implement tobacco control model policies in K-12 schools.

Community Redevelopment and Partnerships

Make community health a priority

- Goal CRP 1: Make the community aware of the costs and benefits associated with good health (i.e. good health saves dollars and lives)
 - Strategy CRP 1.1: Increase awareness of county health status among Levy County residents.
 - Accountable person and organization: Kristina Zachry, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Quit Doc Research and Education Foundation
 - Objective CRP 1.1.1: By December 31, 2013, attend two community health fairs and provide health education information to educate the public about good health.
 - Objective CRP 1.1.2: By June 30, 2014, provide educational information to the community about the costs and benefits associated with good health.
 - Objective CRP 1.1.3: By June 30, 2014, one location will establish a policy to offer cessation services.
 - Objective CRP 1.1.4: By June 30, 2014, establish one policy to create tobacco free multi-unit dwellings.

- Goal CRP 2: Elevate the importance of community health among local officials and policy makers.
 - Strategy 2.2: Increase awareness of county health status among policymakers and community leaders.
 - Accountable person and organization: Barbara Locke, administrator, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective CRP 2.2.1: By December 31, 2014, distribute the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps to 15 community leaders, policymakers and partners.
 - Objective CRP 2.2.2: By March 31, 2014, establish and distribute to 10 organizations, policymakers, businesses and other community members a county-wide newsletter that highlights health issues in Levy County.
 - Objective CRP 2.2.3: By June 30, 2014, facilitate a health summit to discuss the health issues identified in the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Environmental Strengths

Leverage Levy County's environmental strengths and natural resources to improve the health of the community

- Goal ES 1: Link people to available resources through health promotion
 - Strategy ES 1.1: Use existing infrastructure and natural resources to increase physical activity by increasing awareness of resources
 - Accountable person and organization: Barbara Locke, administrator, Florida Department of Health in Levy County
 - Objective ES 1.1.1: By March 31, 2014, meet with community partners to identify ways to market natural resources and infrastructure.
 - Objective ES 1.1.2: By March 31, 2014, collaborate with the media to publicize Levy County's natural resources, hiking/walking trails, and free ways to increase physical activity through the existing infrastructure.

Crosswalk

Table 2: The following is the alignment between the community, state and national priorities.

LEVY COUNTY GOALS	STRATEGY	OBJECTIVES	FL SHIP	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 GOAL	NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT
Focus on providing a continuum of care that includes specialized services.	Assess and provide information about specialty care services in or near Levy County.	By December 30, 2014, improve referral relationship with We Care director to provide 5 percent more specialty care services for free to Levy County residents.	SHIP AC1: Regularly access care assets and service needs.	HP 2020 AHS: Improve access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services.	Strategic Direction: Elimination of Health Disparities: Eliminate disparities, improving the quality of life for all Americans.
Increase screenings and preventative care by focusing on underserved areas like southern Levy County.	Increase awareness and knowledge of primary healthcare services in Levy County.	By December 31, 2012, establish a dental clinic in Bronson, Florida that serves the medically underserved in Levy County.	SHIP AC1: Regularly access care assets and service needs. SHIP AC2: Improve access to primary care services in Florida. SHIP AC4: Enhance access to preventative, restorative and emergency oral healthcare.	HP 2020 AHS: Improve access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services.	Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventative Services: Ensure that prevention-focused healthcare and community prevention efforts are available, integrated, and mutually reinforcing. Strategic Direction: Empowered People: Support people in making healthy choices. Strategic Direction: Elimination of Health Disparities: Eliminate disparities, improving the quality of life for all Americans.
		By December 31, 2013 hold a meeting with the Levy County Healthcare Advisory Board, the Board of the County Commissioners and other community partners to identify ways to improve access to care in Levy County.			
		By March 31, 2014, attend a minimum of three community events to inform and educate the public about healthcare availability, resources and preventive care and screenings in Levy County.			
		By March 31, 2014, distribute 1,000 dental clinic brochures and/or informational flyers to the community to inform residents about dental services.			
Improve access to primary care services in Levy County	Increase the healthcare workforce and reduce health	By June 30, 2014, create and distribute 1,000 Levy County healthcare resource guides to inform residents about primary and specialty care programs, providers and healthcare assistance.	SHIP AC1: Regularly access care assets and service needs.	HP 2020 AHS: Improve access to comprehensive, quality	Strategic Direction: Elimination of Health Disparities: Eliminate disparities, improving the quality of life for all Americans. Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventative Services:



LEVY COUNTY GOALS	STRATEGY	OBJECTIVES	FL SHIP	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 GOAL	NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT
	disparities.	<p>By March 31, 2014, recruit two new physicians for the Medical Reserve Corps to improve access to care.</p> <p>By March 31, 2014, expand the number of clinics the Medical Reserve Corps provides from one to two per month to improve access to care for the medically underserved.</p>	SHIP AC2: Improve access to primary care services in Florida.	healthcare services.	Ensure that prevention-focused healthcare and community prevention efforts are available, integrated, and mutually reinforcing.
Improve healthy habits of young people to improve lifelong health	Strengthen the relationship with the Levy County School Board to impact the health habits of young people.	<p>By June 30, 2013, establish one policy to restrict the sale of candy flavored tobacco products not covered by the Food and Drug Administration.</p> <p>By March 31, 2014, collaborate with community partners to increase the number of schools by one that incorporates Nutrition Day into its educational curriculum.</p> <p>By March 31, 2014, visit three or more public schools to educate students about oral hygiene.</p> <p>By March 31, 2014, collaborate with the School Health Advisory Committee to create a health and fitness club at one high school.</p> <p>By June 30, 2014, establish one policy to implement tobacco control model policies in K-12 schools.</p>	<p>SHIP CD1: Increase the percentage of adults and children who are at a healthy weight.</p> <p>SHIP CD4: Reduce illness, disability and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.</p>	<p>HP 2020 PA: Improve health, fitness and quality of life through daily physical activity. HP 2020 TU: Reduce illness, disability and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke.</p>	Strategic Direction: Empowered People: Support people in making healthy choices.
Make the community aware of the costs and benefits associated with good health (i.e. good health saves dollars and lives)	Increase awareness of county health status among Levy County residents.	<p>By December 31, 2013, attend two community health fairs and provide health education information to educate the public about good health.</p> <p>By June 30, 2014, provide educational information to the community about the costs and benefits associated with good health.</p> <p>By June 30, 2014 one location will establish a policy to offer cessation services.</p>	SHIP CD2: Increase access to resources that promote healthy behaviors.	HP 2020 EBCP: Increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of educational and community-based programs designed to prevent disease and injury, improve health, and enhance quality of life.	Strategic Direction: Empowered People: Support people in making healthy choices. Health and Safe Community Environments: Communities, including homes, schools, public spaces, and work sites can be transformed to support well-being and make healthy choices easy and affordable.



LEVY COUNTY GOALS	STRATEGY	OBJECTIVES	FL SHIP	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 GOAL	NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT
		By June 30, 2014, establish one policy to create tobacco free multi-unit dwellings.		HP 2020 TU: Reduce illness, disability and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke.	
Elevate the importance of community health among local officials and policymakers.	Increase awareness of county health status among policymakers and community leaders.	By December 31, 2013, distribute the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps to 15 community leaders, policy makers and partners.	SHIP CR1: Integrate planning and assessment processes to maximize partnerships and expertise of a community in accomplishing goals.	N/A	Strategic Direction: Health and Safe Community Environments: Communities, including homes, schools, public spaces, and work sites can be transformed to support well-being and make healthy choices easy and affordable.
		By March 31, 2014, establish and distribute to 10 organizations, policymakers, businesses and other community members a county-wide newsletter that highlights health issues in Levy County.			
Link people to available resources through health promotion	Use existing infrastructure and natural resources to increase physical activity by increasing awareness of resources.	By March 31, 2014, meet with local stakeholders to identify ways to market natural resources and infrastructure.	SHIP CD2: Increase access to resources that promote healthy behavior.	HP 2020 PA: Improve health, fitness and quality of life through daily physical activity.	Strategic Direction: Empowered People: Support people in making healthy choices.
		By March 31, 2014, collaborate with the media to publicize Levy County's natural resources, hiking/walking trails, and free ways to increase physical activity through existing infrastructure.			